

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

The Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, in Clark County, Nevada, form one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States. In November 2002, Congress designated the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) and the North McCullough Wilderness through the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Clark County Act) to preserve and protect a portion of southern Nevada's Mojave Desert as a permanent asset for future generations. The 48,438-acre NCA forms the mountainous southern skyline of the City of Henderson and Las Vegas and contains important cultural resources and archaeological sites. The centerpiece of the NCA is the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, one of the most significant cultural resources in southern Nevada. More than 300 rock art panels with nearly 1,700 designs represent native cultures dating from the Archaic to historic era. Although residential housing, schools, parks, and businesses will eventually border much of the northern and western edges of the NCA, at this time the conservation area is undeveloped and sparsely used. There are few roads and no visitor facilities, there is no single entrance, and most visitors never come into contact with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff. However, because use of the NCA will likely change dramatically in coming years, the BLM is challenged to develop management guidance that will be responsive to visitor needs and protective of the NCA's valuable resources.

The BLM has prepared this Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to provide guidance in managing public lands in the Sloan Canyon NCA for the next 15 to 20 years. The guidance provided in the PRMP incorporates the vision of the NCA, which is to manage the NCA to preserve, protect, and enhance the area's cultural and natural resources for the present and future generations. This PRMP was prepared, in part, based on the comments provided by the public, tribes, and federal, State, and local governments on the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which compared a range of management alternatives and identified their associated environmental consequences. This PRMP contains mainly those components of the Draft RMP/EIS that provide a concise description of the Proposed Management Plan. Following a 30-day protest period for the PRMP and after the 60-day Governor's consistency review, a Record of Decision would be prepared and published and the RMP would be approved.

This PRMP contains management direction related to both general land use planning decisions and implementing decisions. The land use planning decisions establish goals and objectives for managing the NCA's resources, as well as associated actions and uses. Implementation decisions, on the other hand, constitute BLM's final approval for on-the-ground actions to proceed. Anyone who participated in the RMP process and has an interest that may be adversely affected may protest the land use planning decisions contained in the PRMP (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1610.5-2). Protests may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. Protests must be submitted to the BLM Director during the 30-day protest period. The Dear Reader Letter provides a detailed explanation on how to submit a protest. After that time, there is no further opportunity for decision review or administrative remedies for protest resolution. Unlike land use decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest but are subject to administrative remedies and review, primarily through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (BLM 2004a). The Summary of the Management Direction (Table ES-1) indicates which actions are land use and which are implementation.

This PRMP was prepared using BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The FEIS is also included to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality

regulations for implementing National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500–1508), and requirements of the BLM’s National Environmental Policy Act Handbook 1790-1.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Title VI of the Clark County Act, hereafter referred to as the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, directs BLM to manage the NCA in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the Conservation Area’s resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Sloan Canyon NCA Act identifies cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources as important reasons for the establishment of the NCA. The designation of the North McCullough Wilderness, administered under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Clark County Act, Title II (“Wilderness Areas”), requires that approximately 14,763 acres within the NCA are preserved and protected in their natural, primitive condition.

The purpose of this RMP is to provide BLM Las Vegas Field Office with comprehensive framework for managing the NCA and the North McCullough Wilderness. This PRMP is a public, detailed document that defines management policies and actions. The RMP—

- Specifies where and under what circumstances particular activities would be allowed within the NCA
- Updates the existing management policies for lands within the NCA, including the North McCullough Wilderness, and the resource allocations affecting the NCA, consistent with the spirit and intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act
- Incorporates available new data
- Resolves issues identified during public scoping
- Integrates or modifies uses of public land that have occurred since the *Proposed Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM 1998a)
- Provides public land management measures in accordance with the FLPMA, BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook, and other existing statutes, regulations, and policy.

The RMP is needed for the following reasons:

- To comply with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, which established the NCA. The legislation mandates that BLM consult with the State of Nevada, the City of Henderson, Clark County, and any other interested persons to develop a management plan for the conservation area
- To comply with BLM National Landscape Conservation System policy. All NCAs are required to have a stand-alone RMP that consolidates all land use plans and implementation or activity plans relevant to the planning area (BLM Instruction Bulletin No. 2001-022, February 22, 2002).

VISION

The BLM developed the following vision for managing the NCA through discussions with cooperating agencies, from input received during the public scoping process, and from the direction, intent, and spirit of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act.

The BLM will manage the Sloan Canyon NCA to preserve, protect, and enhance the area's cultural features and natural resources and wilderness values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations by—

- Protecting the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and respecting the canyon for its importance to Native Americans
- Providing education on the importance of preserving and protecting the area's cultural, natural, and wilderness values
- Providing information and education on Sloan Canyon NCA's resources in a creative manner
- Providing recreational opportunities that are compatible with and protect the various elements of the natural landscape.

PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM land use planning process is guided by laws, regulations, and policies that require the agency to seek public involvement at key points in the development and analysis of management options. In addition, the Sloan Canyon NCA Act requires BLM to coordinate with local governments and involve interested members of the public when developing this management plan. The RMP was developed through an open, collaborative public process and was based on public input solicited throughout the planning effort. For example, input received on the Draft RMP/EIS was considered and incorporated, as appropriate, in this PRMP.

The Notice of Intent, published in the *Federal Register* on September 15, 2003, formally announced the beginning of the Sloan Canyon NCA planning process. The notice encouraged the public and interested State, local, and tribal governments to participate in determining issues to be addressed through the management alternatives and analyzed in the EIS. In addition, information regarding the planning process was distributed through legal notices in newspapers, media releases issued to local television and radio stations, and informal flyers posted in community areas.

Scoping for the Draft RMP/EIS involved asking the public, interested tribes, and other agencies for general approaches and specific ideas about how the NCA and its resources might be managed. BLM conducted four public scoping meetings, co-hosted by the City of Henderson, City of Boulder City, and Clark County; three tribal information meetings; and numerous meetings with tribes, local governments, and other cooperating agencies. The comments received from these meetings, by mail, and from the project's website provided many well-considered ideas, as well as identified related issues, concerns, and potential impacts. These contributions formed a foundation for developing management approaches analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS. A majority of the 512 comments received addressed recreation, access and transportation, and cultural resources, with widespread agreement that the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site should be protected from the impact of visitation, vandalism, and theft. Comments pertaining to recreation uses ranged from hiking trails and mountain biking to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and recreational target shooting. Access and transportation suggestions ranged from constructing no new roads to identifying new road locations and access points.

BLM announced the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS for public review and comment in the *Federal Register* on March 25, 2005. This announcement initiated a 90-day public comment period that closed on June 23, 2005. Governmental agencies, tribes, and the public were invited to submit their comments by mail, through the project's website, e-mail, and fax, and at public hearings held on May 10 and 11, 2005.

Approximately 550 comments were received by letter, fax, e-mail, and oral communication (public hearings) from members of the public, government and non-governmental agencies, tribes, and cooperating agencies. The comments were organized into topical categories (e.g., recreation, cultural resources, wilderness, lands and realty, wildlife, access and transportation, and interpretation). Most of the comments addressed recreation, particularly OHV use, the designation of hiking trails, and the identification of trail-use only hiking areas. Other major topics addressed by commenters included alternatives, facilities, wildlife, and transportation.

BLM assessed and considered public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS both individually and collectively. All comments submitted during the Draft RMP/EIS review period were evaluated and incorporated into the proposed plan where appropriate. Some comments led to RMP modifications; others resulted in a response to explain BLM policy, to refer readers to information in the Draft RMP/EIS, to answer technical questions and further explain technical issues, to correct reader misinterpretations, or to provide clarification. Some comments resulted in clarifications, technical corrections, and changes to the alternatives and the analysis. The comments reviewed and responses can be found in Appendix J of the PRMP/FEIS.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The first step in the planning process was to develop a vision for the NCA: to manage the Sloan Canyon NCA to preserve, protect, and enhance the area's cultural features and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The scoping comments and recommendations provided by the public, tribes, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists, which varied in range between retaining the natural character of the NCA and having different levels of NCA facility development and resource use, were analyzed within this framework. Alternative themes (in addition to Alternative A: No Action) therefore were named and defined to reflect the various development levels (Alternative B: Emphasize Natural Character; Alternative C: Moderate Developed Use; Alternative D: Emphasize Developed Uses). All the comments and recommendations were placed under one of the four alternative management scenarios. With the exception of recommendations that were outside the scope of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas") and that could not be enacted for statutory or regulatory reasons, all comments and recommendations by participants during the scoping process were included in one or more of the management alternatives.

With alternative themes defined, resource specialists from BLM and the cooperating agencies developed specific objectives and actions for their area of expertise. The BLM planning team and cooperating agencies worked closely together to develop the alternatives, to carefully review the alternatives to ensure consistency within each alternative management scenario, and to identify any potential conflicts among resource prescriptions that might occur within the alternatives.

The goal of alternatives development was to construct a range of management actions and tools to balance the predicted increase in use of the NCA with protection of the NCA's outstanding characteristics, such as its primitive character and cultural resources. Alternatives had to meet the purpose and need of the NCA management plan; be viable and reasonable; provide a mix of resource protections, management use, and development; be responsive to issues identified during scoping; and meet the established planning criteria, federal laws, regulations, and BLM planning policy.

Selection of the Proposed Management Plan

The agency-preferred alternative analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS was Alternative C, Moderate Developed Use. This alternative is the basis of the PRMP, however it was slightly modified based on internal reviews, cooperating agency collaboration, and public comments. The PRMP, used for the long-term management and protection of the NCA, was chosen from a comprehensive compilation of the alternatives. The Proposed Management Plan was selected because it serves the purpose of the NCA as described by the enacting legislation and the NCA vision as developed by the interagency planning team. It provides for moderate levels of developed recreation, facilities, and transportation, with management actions to ensure that neither resources nor visitor experiences are unacceptably degraded. Elements of each of the draft management alternatives, including Alternative B, the preferred Alternative C, and Alternative D, are included in the PRMP.

The Sloan Canyon NCA Act directed BLM to grant the City of Henderson a right-of-way (ROW) for the North McCullough Road (N-65874), which is envisioned as a scenic roadway constructed to provide access to the NCA, trailheads, and overlook points. The Act requires BLM to recommend a location for the North McCullough Road as part of this planning process. Based on ground surveys, field visits, impact assessments, and extensive dialogue with City of Henderson planners and engineers, BLM recommends the proposed Northern Corridor as the location for North McCullough Road. Any future development related to this scenic roadway-associated trail would require additional environmental review. Table ES-1, Summary of the Management Direction, summarizes the proposed plan.

CHANGES FROM THE DRAFT TO THE PROPOSED RMP/FEIS

Below is a summary of differences in management actions between the preferred alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/FEIS. These changes were made based on internal reviews, agency coordination, and public comments.

- The semiprimitive management emphasis area has been extended to the north on the east side of the NCA to include Black Mountain and additional critical bighorn habitat
- The PRMP has been modified to allow cross-country hiking and equestrian use in areas designated for trail use only until BLM trails are established and in use, after which some or all use may be restricted to proposed trails. Additional trails would be planned, designed, and constructed through a systematic process that would evaluate needs, potential uses, suitable destinations, and public interest, through an environmental assessment. A hiking trail system with a wide range of uses is anticipated. As in the original preferred alternative, hiking trails would not be limited to the two ROWs for hiking trails that were previously issued to the City of Henderson, as prescribed by the Sloan Canyon Act (one is included in the ROW for the North McCullough Road)
- Unauthorized constructed or social trails would be evaluated and considered for closure, restoration, or adoption into the trail system. All new disturbances within the NCA would be treated as trespasses, with appropriate administrative or law enforcement actions
- Management actions for the Petroglyph Management Area (e.g., visitor use restrictions) would be phased in as NCA infrastructure is developed and visitor numbers rise requiring increasing levels of management
- Dogs are allowed on-leash in designated areas and prohibited from the remainder of the NCA

- All campfire fuels must be packed in and out; no fuels natural to the NCA can be used. Encourage the use of portable stoves for preparing meals
- Rockhounding is prohibited in the NCA
- Casual and commercial collection of vegetation and reptiles would be prohibited throughout the NCA
- Hunting would be prohibited in the Petroglyph Management Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Potential environmental impacts that could occur from implementing the proposed plan are described in Chapter 4 of this PRMP. The baseline used for determining the potential impacts are the current resource condition described in Chapter 3. The PRMP was constructed to avoid or reduce resource impacts as much as possible, so—should the management actions be implemented—the potential impacts discussed in Chapter 4 should be considered unavoidable.

AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Title II, Section 202 of the FLPMA requires BLM to coordinate with certain federal, State and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other entities during the National Environmental Policy Act decision making process. BLM is also directed to integrate National Environmental Policy Act requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR 1500.4-5).

To comply with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, BLM consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure the PRMP actions would neither compromise the existence of listed species nor destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat within the NCA (50 CFR 400). The USFWS referred BLM to the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program for verification of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plant and animal species and species of concern in the NCA and for further evaluation of conservation needs for the project area (Appendix K). BLM began informal consultation with the USFWS concerning the Sloan Canyon NCA RMP/EIS in the spring 2004 and submitted a Biological Assessment based on the PRMP to the USFWS in September 2005.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) was consulted concerning state-listed threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species. Coordination and consultation with NDOW will continue throughout the planning process and during actual plan implementation.

The BLM cultural resource management program operates in accordance with 36 CFR, Part 60, which outlines specific procedures for consultation between BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A National Programmatic Agreement among the SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and BLM, which became effective in 1997, incorporated statewide protocol between BLM and SHPO, established reporting standards, and defined undertakings and activities that would require consultation. The Nevada SHPO was a cooperating agency throughout the planning process and worked with BLM to ensure that historic properties would be appropriately considered in the Sloan Canyon NCA RMP/EIS process. Consultation with the SHPO under the Nevada State Protocol and subsequent agreements will continue.

During the earliest planning stages, invitations were extended to the State of Nevada, Clark County, other agencies, and federal and local governments to participate as cooperating agencies in the RMP development. The following committed to participate as cooperating agencies: NDOW; Nevada SHPO; Clark County; City of Henderson; City of Boulder City; Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah; and Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Initially, cooperating agencies were given a field tour of the NCA; were asked by the BLM to provide existing data and other relevant information; and were encouraged to work with the BLM interdisciplinary team to develop and assess alternatives, impacts, and the proposed plan. Many cooperating agencies became integral members of the interdisciplinary team for the RMP and attended extensive meetings to share their expertise. The City of Henderson, which shares a border with the north half of the NCA, not only made expert contributions but also is taking into account the NCA and its resources in its own planning of streets, libraries, and other infrastructure in the rapidly developing lands bordering the NCA.

The NCA is known to contain a site of major interest to Native American tribes—the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site. Consultation with area tribes occurred and continues to occur on several levels. These consultations range from government-to-government, such as inviting interested tribes to become cooperating agencies at the level of involvement of their choice, to public information meetings held at tribal locations, and to an intensive ethnographic study undertaken with the cooperation of tribal officials and individual members to identify and evaluate the cultural resources of the NCA. BLM is committed to continuing long-term consultation and cooperation with the tribes regarding the management of cultural aspects of the NCA. A Native American Coordinator has been assigned to the NCA staff to carry forward the relationships developed during this planning process. The BLM Native American Coordinator facilitated meetings with the tribes to provide updates on the Draft RMP/EIS and to develop a comprehensive Interpretive Plan.

RESOURCE-SPECIFIC PLANS FOR THE NCA

As part of the planning process resource-specific plans and strategies were developed. These plans, some of which are required by regulations or the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, contain additional management guidance for on-the-ground activities. For example, the North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan provides direction for the management of various resources and activities within the North McCullough Wilderness to ensure the preservation of the area's wilderness character.

Recreation Monitoring Plan (Appendix B)—Contains the monitoring approach that would be used in the NCA to ensure that management actions meet the recreation management goals and objectives described in this PRMP

North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan (Appendix C)—Provides the detailed management guidance to implement actions selected as part of this PRMP for the North McCullough Wilderness over the next 10 years

Cultural Resources Management Plan (Appendix D)—Provides key elements for the management of cultural resources during the first stage of NCA implementation

Interpretive Strategy and Environmental Education Strategy (Appendix F)—Clarifies and sets direction for the Interpretive and Environmental Education Program at the NCA

Litter Cleanup Plan and Public Lands Awareness Campaign (Appendix G)—Provides cleanup actions and management priorities to help ensure that an effective anti-litter message is delivered and to eventually result in a litter-free NCA

Vegetation Restoration Strategy (Appendix H)—Developed to improve vegetation community conditions in the NCA through the restoration of existing disturbances and the management and control of future disturbances

Biological Management Strategy (Appendix I)—Contains a general management strategy to help maintain the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the NCA

Biological Assessment (Appendix L)—Addresses the biological impacts of the proposed management actions on the federally listed species identified in the PRMP and provides mitigation actions.

Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Alternative Themes	No Action.	Emphasize Natural Character.	Allow Moderate Developed Use While Maintaining Natural Character.	Emphasize Developed Uses.
Alternative Objectives	Manage in accordance with existing guidance, laws, plans, and policies that comply the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").	Comply with the acts. Emphasize primitive visitor experience while protecting and preserving NCA resources. Allow least-developed use.	Comply with the acts. Provide a greater diversity of uses, developed facilities, and fewer restrictions outside the Wilderness.	Comply with the acts. Emphasize developed use, including human activities and recreational opportunities.
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM/MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS				
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum/ Management Emphasis Areas (L)	Manage according to ROS classes designated in the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> . Zone Wilderness as Primitive to meet the intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").	Manage according to designated MEAs.	Manage according to designated MEAs, except MEA zones vary (Figure 2.1).	Manage according to designated MEAs, except MEA zones vary.
RECREATION				
Hiking (I)	Allowed throughout the NCA.	Allow cross-country hiking in the NCA, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access, where hikers must stay in the wash. No hiking trails designated.	<u>In designated areas, cross-country hiking allowed until BLM trails are established and constructed, after which some of the areas may be restricted to hiking on designated trails.</u> Cross-country hiking allowed in remainder of NCA (Figure 2.2).	Trail use required in designated areas; cross-country hiking allowed in remainder of NCA, except designated areas vary.

*Underlining shows changes from Draft RMP/EIS Alternative C.

Note: (L) denotes land use planning decisions; (I) denotes implementing decisions.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Equestrian Use (I)	Allowed throughout the NCA.	Prohibited throughout the NCA, except on The City of Henderson's North McCullough Trail. Require certified weed-free feed and hay.	<u>In designated areas, cross-country equestrian use allowed until BLM trails are established and constructed, after which some of the areas may be restricted to use on designated trails.</u> Cross-country use allowed in other areas. Use prohibited in remainder of NCA (Figure 2.3). Require certified weed-free feed and hay. <u>Watering of horses and pack animals prohibited at wildlife water developments.</u> <u>Horse and pack animal waste must be removed in trailhead areas.</u>	Trail use required in designated areas; cross-country use allowed in other areas. Use prohibited in remainder of NCA, except designated areas vary. Require certified weed-free feed and hay.
Mountain Biking (I)	Allowed throughout the NCA, except the Wilderness.	Prohibited throughout the NCA, except on the City of Henderson's North McCullough and Anthem trails.	Allowed in designated areas on designated roads and trails (Figure 2.4).	Allowed in designated areas on designated roads and trails, except designated areas, roads, and routes vary. Dedicated mountain bike trails developed.
Trails (I)	Designate, design, construct, and maintain trails on an as-needed, case-by-case basis. Analyze development in sensitive natural or cultural	Designate no trails in the NCA other than the City of Henderson's North McCullough and Anthem trails.	Develop a multiple-use trail system in designated areas. Provide facilities to access recreational destinations and provide loop-trail opportunities.	Develop a trail system to optimize uses. Include widest range of trails and facility experiences (primitive to highly developed). Emphasize recreational

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	resource areas through site-specific National Environmental Policy Act analysis.		Avoid development in sensitive natural or cultural resource areas, where possible.	experience. Avoid development in sensitive natural or cultural resource areas, where possible.
	Appropriately manage trail development near wildlife water developments.		Consider site-specific resource conditions when selecting and designing trails and adding new trails.	Consider site-specific resource conditions when selecting and designing trails and adding new trails.
	Expand trail system as needed.		Appropriately manage trail development near wildlife water developments.	Appropriately manage trail development near wildlife water developments.
	Restore unauthorized trails to natural conditions upon discovery.	Restore unauthorized trails to natural conditions upon discovery.	Evaluate trails outside Wilderness for development, with consideration of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.	Evaluate trails outside Wilderness for development, with consideration of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
			Add new trails if visitor experience would improve without substantial impact to sensitive natural or cultural resources.	Add new trails if visitor experience would improve without irreparable impact to sensitive natural or cultural resources.
			<u>Evaluate unauthorized constructed trails and social trails and consider whether to close and restore or adopt into the trail system.</u>	Evaluate unauthorized trails and consider whether to close and restore or adopt into the trail system.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
OHV (L)	Per Sloan Canyon NCA Act, there is no OHV use in the NCA because no roads and routes have been designated.	Prohibited throughout the NCA.	Prohibited throughout the NCA.	Allowed on designated routes.
Dogs (I)	Allowed, off-leash, throughout the NCA unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit dogs throughout the NCA.	Dogs allowed, on-leash, <u>in designated areas (Figure 2.5) and are prohibited in the remainder of the NCA, including the Petroglyph Management Area.</u> Dog feces must be immediately picked up and packed out.	Allowed, off-leash, throughout NCA, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access, and designated sensitive resource areas. Dog feces must be immediately picked up and packed out.
Nighttime Use (I)	Allow camping and associated fires throughout NCA, except areas closed to camping per the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> .	Prohibit camping, campfires, and after-hours use throughout the NCA.	Allow primitive, dispersed camping in designated areas of the NCA (Figure 2.6). Allow campfires at camping sites in fire pans or with fire blankets. <u>All fuels must be packed in and packed out. No natural fuels in the NCA can be used for campfires.</u> <u>Encourage the use of portable gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel stoves for cooking.</u>	Allow primitive, dispersed camping in designated areas of the NCA, except designated areas vary. Develop a dry, primitive campground near the Hidden Valley Trailhead. Outside the Wilderness, allow campfires at camping sites in BLM-authorized fire rings. In the Wilderness, allow campfires at camping sites in fire pans or with fire blankets. Fire waste products must be packed out.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Rock Climbing (I)	Allow throughout the NCA unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Allow bouldering and traditional rock climbing (no permanent anchors) throughout the NCA, including the Wilderness, except in the Petroglyph Management Area and its northern access, and in designated sensitive resource areas.	Allow permanent anchors throughout NCA, including the Wilderness, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access, and in designated sensitive resource areas. No power drills allowed in the Wilderness.
Rockhounding (L)	Allow throughout the NCA unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Allow throughout NCA, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access.
Geocaching (I)	Allow throughout the NCA unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.
Recreational Target Shooting (I)	Allow throughout NCA except areas closed to shooting per the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> .	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.	Prohibit throughout the NCA.
Hunting			Allowing hunting, in accordance with State of Nevada laws and regulations, throughout the NCA except for the Petroglyph Management Area. Allow hunting dogs, off-leash, in designated hunting areas.	
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) (L)	Issue SRPs in the NCA; issue no competitive or vending SRPs in the Wilderness.	Issue no competitive or vending SRPs within the NCA or Wilderness.	Issue SRPs in the NCA; issue no competitive or vending SRPs in the Wilderness. <u>Issue commercial SRPs on a case-by-case basis for guides and outfitters.</u>	Issue SRPs in the NCA; issue no competitive or vending SRPs the Wilderness.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
	Require organized groups to obtain an SRP on a case-by-case basis.	Require organized groups to obtain an SRP on a case-by-case basis for group activities outside the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.	Require organized groups to obtain an SRP on a case-by-case basis for group activities outside the Petroglyph Management Area.	Require organized groups to obtain an SRP on a case-by-case basis for group activities outside the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.
NORTH MCCULLOUGH WILDERNESS AREA (See Appendix C, Wilderness Management Plan, for additional implementing actions)				
Wilderness Visitation (I)	Monitor and manage to maintain wilderness characteristics (e.g., solitude and naturalness).	<p>Monitor and manage to maintain wilderness characteristics (e.g., solitude and naturalness) at or below a threshold established through a system such as limit of acceptable change process.</p> <p>Establish separate threshold for the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.</p> <p>Limit visitation to a number that does not cause impacts to wilderness characteristics (e.g., social trails and crowding).</p> <p>Establish appropriate visitation thresholds based on monitoring of impacts to wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>Monitor and manage to maintain wilderness characteristics (e.g., solitude and naturalness) at or below the visitor encounter standards/thresholds as established in the North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan (Appendix C). Based on monitoring and refined baseline data, adjust the thresholds and or limitations through a system such as limits of acceptable change (LAC).</p> <p>Establish separate thresholds and/or limitations for the Petroglyph Management Area and the remainder of the Wilderness.</p>	<p>Monitor and manage to maintain wilderness characteristics (e.g., solitude and naturalness) at or below a threshold established through a system such as limit of acceptable change process.</p> <p>Establish separate threshold for the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.</p> <p>Limit visitation to a number that does not cause impacts to wilderness characteristics (e.g., social trails and crowding).</p> <p>Establish appropriate visitation thresholds based on monitoring of impacts to wilderness characteristics.</p>
<u>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area</u>	Allow self-guided tours without restrictions on visitation numbers, group size, or access.	Allow visitation to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site only with a guided tour.	<u>Management actions for the Petroglyph Management Area would be implemented once adequate NCA</u>	Allow self-guided tours without restrictions on visitation numbers, group size, or access.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Visitor Use Restrictions (I)		<p>Allow no more than one guided group, consisting of no more than 12 people, at the petroglyph site at one time.</p> <p>For organized groups with prior reservations, guided tours would be arranged for groups of 6 to 20 people to visit the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.</p>	<p><u>infrastructure is in place.</u></p> <p>During periods of lower use, allow unaccompanied visitation to the Petroglyph Management Area if permit is obtained.</p> <p>During periods of high use, allow no more than one guided group, consisting of no more than 20 people, at the petroglyph site at one time.</p> <p>For organized groups with prior reservations, guided tours would be arranged for groups of 10 to 35 people to visit the Petroglyph Site.</p>	<p>Establish no limitation on group sizes or numbers unless needed to prevent impacts to wilderness characteristics or canyon resources.</p> <p>For organized groups with prior reservations, guided tours would be arranged for groups of 10 to 35 people to visit the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.</p>
<u>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area</u> Self-Guided Tours (I)	No similar action.	Prohibit unaccompanied visits.	<p>Issue self-guided tour permits from the visitor center, from a roving ranger, or at the Hidden Valley Trailhead.</p> <p>Issue no more than 25 permits per hour.</p> <p>Require all nonguided visitors to experience an interpretive presentation on appropriate visitor use and site etiquette at cultural resources sites.</p>	<p>No permits required.</p> <p>Require all nonguided visitors to experience an interpretive presentation on appropriate visitor use and site etiquette at cultural resources sites.</p>

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
<u>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area</u> Operational Hours (I)	No similar action.	Allow access to petroglyph site during visitor contact station operating hours (to be determined).	Allow access to Petroglyph Management Area during visitor center operating hours (to be determined).	Allow access to petroglyph site during visitor center and visitor contact station operating hours (to be determined).
<u>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area</u> Access Control/Patrols (I)	Patrol to protect natural and cultural resources and to ensure compliance with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act.	Control northern access to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site from the visitor contact station and ongoing patrols. Monitor resource conditions and visitor use of the canyon with roving rangers.	Control northern access to the Petroglyph Management Area from the visitor's center by site patrols. Control southern access to the Petroglyph Management Area by issuing permits at the Hidden Valley Trailhead and by site patrols. Utilize roving rangers to monitor resource conditions and visitor use, as well as issue self-guided tour permits.	Control northern access to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site from the visitor's center and ongoing patrols. Control southern access to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site from Hidden Valley contact station. Monitor resource conditions and visitor use of the canyon with roving rangers.
<u>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area</u> Trails (L)	Manage to comply with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").	Designate the Sloan Canyon wash as the access from the contact station to the petroglyph site. Use limited to the canyon floor.	Designate and construct two trails as the North access options from the visitor center to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site. (Cowboy Trail and Petroglyph Trail) Designate and construct a trail from the Hidden Valley Trailhead to the Petroglyph Management Area (Figure 2.7).	Designate both the Sloan Canyon wash and the constructed rockfall bypass trail as the access options from the visitor center to the petroglyph site, except place ladder or rock stairway in wash at rockfall.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
			Limit the uses within the Petroglyph Management Area to the canyon floor and designated trail access (Figure 2.8).	
<i>Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Management Area Signage (I)</i>	No similar action.	Prohibit within the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site access areas. Place signs indicating that access to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is allowed by guided tour only beyond this point. Place signs at various points, including the south end of the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site.	Allow limited amounts of signage and interpretive media within the Petroglyph Management Area for resource and wilderness protection.	Allow signage and interpretive media within the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and access areas for educational purposes and to protect wilderness values. No similar action.
<i>Wilderness Recreation Hiking/ Equestrian Use (I)</i>	No similar action.	Allow cross-country hiking in the Wilderness, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access. Prohibit equestrian use in the Wilderness.	Require use of designated trails in the Petroglyph Management Area. In the remainder of Wilderness allow cross-country hiking. Prohibit equestrian and pack animal use in the Petroglyph Management Area. In the remainder of the Wilderness allow cross-country equestrian and pack animal use.	Designated trail use required to access the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site; cross-country hiking allowed in remainder of Wilderness. Equestrian use prohibited in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site; allow cross-country equestrian use in the remainder of the Wilderness, except trail use required for equestrian use in designated areas in the NCA and Wilderness.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
			Use of certified weed-free horse feed and hay would be required through out the Wilderness.	Certified weed-free horse feed and hay would be required to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.
Wilderness Recreation Trails (L)	<p>Manage trail use as appropriate and designate trails on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Design construct, and maintain trails as appropriate.</p> <p>Manage social trail proliferation as appropriate.</p> <p>Manage trail development near wildlife water developments as appropriate.</p>	<p>Prohibit designation and construction of hiking and equestrian trails.</p> <p>Block new social trails using natural materials, with the minimum requirement/ minimum tool analysis.</p> <p>Restore visible portions of new social trails using nonmechanized means and native vegetation. Restore nonvisible portions naturally.</p> <p>Manage recreation use that results in social trails by closing areas, installing barriers, and providing visitor information.</p>	<p>As necessary, construct, designate, and maintain trails for the protection of resources and wilderness character.</p> <p><u>Evaluate social trails and consider whether to close and restore or adopt into the trail system.</u></p> <p>Manage recreation use that results in social trails by closing areas, installing barriers, and providing visitor information.</p> <p>Prohibit construction of trails within 1/4-mile of wildlife developments.</p>	<p>Designate, design, construct, and maintain trails for resource protection and opportunities for primitive recreation.</p> <p>Block new social trails using natural materials, with the minimum requirement/ minimum tool analysis, and install wilderness-appropriate "Closed" signs.</p> <p>Restore new social trails after completing a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis.</p> <p>Manage recreation use that results in social trails by closing areas, installing barriers, and providing visitor information.</p> <p>Prohibit construction of trails within 1/4-mile of wildlife developments.</p>

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Wilderness Recreation Dogs (I)	Allow, off-leash, throughout Wilderness unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit dogs throughout Wilderness.	<u>Prohibit dogs throughout Wilderness.</u>	Allow, off-leash, throughout Wilderness except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access, and designated sensitive resource areas. Dog feces must be immediately picked up and packed out.
Wilderness Recreation Nighttime Use (I)	Allow camping and associated campfires throughout the Wilderness, except in areas closed to camping per the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> .	Prohibit camping, campfires, and after-hours use throughout the Wilderness.	Allow primitive, dispersed camping and associated campfires throughout the Wilderness, except in the Petroglyph Management Area. Allow campfires at camping sites using only fire pans or fire blankets. <u>All fuels must be packed in and packed out. No natural fuels in the NCA can be used for campfires.</u> Fire waste products must be packed out. <u>Encourage the use of portable gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel stoves for cooking.</u>	Allow primitive, dispersed camping and associated campfires throughout the Wilderness, except in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site. Allow campfires at camping sites, using fire pans or fire blankets. Fire waste products must be packed out.
Wilderness Recreation Other Recreation Use (I)	Allow geocaching throughout Wilderness unless unacceptable resource degradation occurs.	Prohibit geocaching in the Wilderness.	Prohibit geocaching in the Wilderness.	Prohibit geocaching in the Wilderness.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
	Allow rock climbing with permanent anchors (but no power drills).	Prohibit rock climbing in the Wilderness.	Prohibit rock climbing in the Petroglyph Management Area and its northern access. Allow bouldering and traditional rock climbing (no permanent anchors) in the remainder of the Wilderness.	Prohibit rock climbing in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access. Allow bouldering and traditional rock climbing using low-profile, natural-colored fixed anchors (no power drills) in the remainder of the Wilderness.
Wilderness Signage and Developments (I)	Install Wilderness boundary signs, trailhead access signs, visitor registers, and permanent improvements, as appropriate. Allow permanent improvements in Wilderness, as appropriate.	Install Wilderness boundary signs at all known and potential Wilderness access routes and visitor use areas. Install low-profile, natural-colored Wilderness visitor registers outside the Wilderness boundary on high-use access routes. Prohibit permanent improvements in Wilderness.	Wilderness boundary would be posted at all known and potential access routes, visitor use areas, and at "line of sight" distances along its entire length. Interpretive and administrative signs, visitor registers, and kiosks would be located outside the Wilderness boundary at appropriate access routes. Include route information, maps, and visitor information. Allow minimal permanent developments only for the purpose of resource	Install wilderness boundary signs at all known and potential Wilderness access routes and visitor use areas, except install signs at "line of sight" distances along the entire Wilderness boundary. Install low-profile, natural-colored trailhead signs and kiosks outside Wilderness boundary at major access routes. Include route information, maps, and visitor and interpretative information. Install low-profile, natural-colored Wilderness visitor registers outside the Wilderness boundary on high-use access routes. Allow minimal permanent improvements in Wilderness only for the purpose of

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
			protection and enhancement of wilderness values.	resource protection, human health and safety, and enhancement of wilderness values.
Wilderness Disturbance Restoration (I)	<p>Maintain naturalness.</p> <p>Manage vandalism and illegal dumping as appropriate.</p> <p>Noxious and invasive weeds would be managed as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Restore human-caused disturbances or alterations using only nonmechanized handtools, without altering natural vegetation composition. Complete restoration during low visitation periods.</p> <p>Remove or repair vandalism and illegal dumping in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site using only nonmechanized handtools.</p> <p>In the remainder of the Wilderness, consider using nonmechanical means.</p> <p>Manage noxious and invasive weeds in accordance with Partners Against Weeds—An Action Plan for the BLM Initiative for Weeds.</p>	<p>Rehabilitate human-caused disturbances or developments using appropriate methods determined through a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis for each project.</p> <p>Remove or repair vandalism and illegal dumping in the Wilderness <u>after completing a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis.</u></p> <p>Manage noxious and invasive weeds in accordance with Partners Against Weeds—An Action Plan for the BLM Initiative for Weeds.</p>	<p>Restore human-caused disturbances or alterations using only nonmechanized handtools, without altering natural vegetation composition. Complete restoration during low visitation periods, except complete a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis.</p> <p>Remove or repair vandalism and illegal dumping in the Wilderness using only nonmechanized hand tools.</p> <p>Manage noxious and invasive weeds in accordance with Partners Against Weeds—An Action Plan for the BLM initiative for weeds.</p>
CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Sloan Canyon Petroglyph National	Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land	Assign to traditional use, conservation for future use, and public use categories	Assign to traditional use, conservation for future use, public use, and scientific use	Assign to traditional use, conservation for future use, public use, and scientific use

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Register Site (L)	<p>disturbing activities within limits prescribed by compliance with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").</p> <p>Implement the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i>, managing cultural resources within the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph NRHP Site for conservation of their overriding scientific or historic importance.</p>	<p>within the limits prescribed by the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").</p> <p>Minimize changes to natural condition of the site.</p>	<p>categories. Management actions must be within limits prescribed by the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").</p>	<p>categories, with scientific use restricted to activities that would have no effect on the site's eligibility for the NRHP.</p> <p>Management actions must be within limits prescribed by the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").</p>
Rockshelters (L)	<p>Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.</p> <p>Implement the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i>, managing rockshelters that have or are likely to receive intensive recreational use for public use. Monitor and protect these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>Manage rockshelters in the remainder of the NCA for conservation use.</p>	<p>Assign the majority of known rockshelters to conservation for future use and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of the rockshelters to scientific, public, and traditional use categories.</p>	<p>Assign approximately half the known rockshelters to conservation for future use and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of the rockshelters to scientific, public, and traditional use categories.</p>	<p>Assign the majority of known rockshelters to scientific and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of the rockshelters to conservation for future use and traditional use categories.</p>

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
Rock Art (other than Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site) (L)	<p>Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.</p> <p>Implement the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i>, managing rock art locales that have or are likely to receive intensive recreational use for public use. Monitor and protect from disturbance and damage as appropriate.</p> <p>Manage rock art locale in the remainder of the NCA for conservation use.</p>	<p>Assign the majority of rock art sites to conservation for future use and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of the rock art sites to conservation for future use, scientific use, and traditional use categories.</p>	<p>Assign approximately half the rock art sites to conservation for future use and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of the rock art sites to conservation for future use, scientific use, and traditional use categories.</p>	<p>Assign the majority of rock art sites to traditional and public use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of rock art sites to conservation for future use, scientific use, and traditional use categories.</p>
All Other Prehistoric and Historic Sites (L)	<p>Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.</p> <p>Implement the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i>, managing roasting pits, camp/open lithic scatters, rock features, and historic trash scatters for scientific use. Manage representative samples of each site type for conservation use.</p> <p>Manage prehistoric and historic remains, mining sites, and historic road/trail sites in areas that have or</p>	<p>Assign approximately half the known other prehistoric and historic sites to conservation for future use and traditional use.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of these sites to scientific, public, and traditional use management categories.</p>	<p>Assign approximately half the known other prehistoric and historic sites to conservation for future use and traditional use.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of these sites to scientific, public, and traditional use management categories.</p>	<p>Assign the majority of the known other prehistoric and historic sites to scientific and traditional use management categories.</p> <p>Assign the remainder of these sites to conservation for future use and traditional use categories.</p>

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
	are likely to receive intensive recreational use for public use. Monitor and protect these sites as appropriate. Manage the remainder of these sites within the NCA for conservation use.			
Ineligible Sites and Isolates (L)	Not treated under the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> or Section 106.	Assign to scientific and experimental use management categories. Do not require mitigation beyond recordation for land disturbing activities, because not covered under Section 106.	Assign to scientific and experimental use management categories.	Assign to scientific and experimental use management categories.
High-Density Site Area (L)	Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Utilize maximum fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Utilize maximum fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Utilize maximum fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.
Medium-Density Site Area (L)	Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information.	Require Class III inventory prior to any land disturbing undertaking. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
		Utilize flexible fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.	Utilize flexible fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.	Utilize flexible fire suppression with cultural resource advisor.
Low-Density Site Area (L)	Manage under Section 106 and appropriate guidance when threatened by land disturbing activities.	Require reconnaissance-level inventory prior to land disturbing activities. Consider areas for elimination of inventory requirements when sufficient information is available. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Fire control would be discretionary, with no resource advisor required.	Require reconnaissance-level inventory prior to land disturbing activities. Consider areas for elimination of inventory requirements when sufficient information is available. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Fire control would be discretionary, with no resource advisor required.	Require reconnaissance-level inventory prior to land disturbing activities. Consider areas for elimination of inventory requirements when sufficient information is available. Require mitigation measures appropriate to the resource, degree of threat, and redundancy of information. Fire control would be discretionary, with no resource advisor required.
SPECIAL DESIGNATION—ACEC				
Modification/ Elimination of Sloan Rock Art District ACEC (L)	Maintain existing area of environmental concern (ACEC).	Modify the ACEC boundary to match the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site boundary as listed in the National Register of Historic Places.	Eliminate the ACEC.	Eliminate the ACEC.
VISUAL RESOURCES				
Establish VRM Classes (L)	Apply VRM classes established in the <i>Las Vegas RMP</i> , except the Wilderness would be VRM Class I.	VRM classes would be established based on the Visual Resource Inventory, including designating the Wilderness as VRM Class I.	VRM classes would be established based on the Visual Resource Inventory, including designating the Wilderness as VRM Class I (Figure 2.9).	VRM classes would be established based on the Visual Resource Inventory, including designating the Wilderness as VRM Class I, except class areas vary.

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
INTERPRETATION				
Whether Interpretive and Informational Material will be Visible to Users (I)	No similar action.	<p>Minimize presence of interpretive media. Visible media would be low-profile, natural in color, and used to orient visitors while providing resource protection.</p> <p>Place stationary interpretive media (kiosks, bulletin boards) in highly developed areas. Produce other interpretive media to accompany visitors into the NCA.</p> <p>Focus on use of interactive virtual interpretation media.</p>	<p>Outside the Wilderness, allow low-profile, visually unobtrusive interpretive media in high-use areas. Focus on highly visible media at staging areas (parking areas, trailheads). Inside the Wilderness, allow limited amounts of small signage and interpretive media in high-use areas for the purposes of resource protection and the enhancement of wilderness values.</p> <p>Limit stationary interpretive media to specific areas identified for interpretation, and design to reduce visual impacts.</p> <p>Provide a full range of interpretive media, with visibility decreasing as the distance from developed areas increases.</p> <p>Focus on use of interactive virtual interpretation media.</p>	<p>Outside the Wilderness, provide visible interpretive media designed to draw attention to interpreted resources (where appropriate). Locate media to best interpret the resources.</p> <p>Provide a full range of interpretive media pending other resource considerations.</p>

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
FACILITIES				
NCA Facilities (L)	No similar action.	<p>Construct a visitor contact station near the NCA boundary at the north entrance to Sloan Canyon. Provide interpretative material to assist in resource protection, assist NCA personnel, and serve as an access point to the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site. Locate a separate facility near the contact station to support maintenance and other administrative purposes.</p> <p>Construct a Hidden Valley Trailhead consisting of a surfaced parking lot, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilet at the NCA boundary.</p>	<p>Construct a visitor center near the NCA boundary at the north entrance to Sloan Canyon. The center could provide NCA office space, serve as an access and control point for the Petroglyph Management Area, and be the headquarters for patrols and rangers. The center could include space for visiting scholars, <u>archival storage</u>, maintenance and storage, interpretive areas, amphitheater, classrooms, bookstore, and concessions.</p> <p>Construct a Hidden Valley Trailhead consisting of a <u>surfaced</u> parking lot, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilet at the NCA boundary.</p>	<p>Construct a visitor center near the NCA boundary at the north entrance to Sloan Canyon. The center could provide NCA office space, serve as an access and control point for the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, and be the headquarters for patrols and rangers. The center could include space for visiting scholars, maintenance and storage, interpretive areas, amphitheater, classrooms, bookstore, and concessions.</p> <p>Construct a Hidden Valley Trailhead consisting of a surfaced parking lot and an equestrian staging area in the NCA at the Wilderness boundary, near the south entrance to Sloan Canyon.</p> <p>A visitor contact station would be constructed at the Hidden Valley Trailhead and would comprise interpretive kiosks, vault toilets, and a nearby 1-acre 20-site dry campground.</p>

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
		Construct a Dutchman Pass Trailhead consisting of a surfaced parking lot, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilet constructed near the northeastern boundary of the NCA.	Construct a Dutchman Pass Trailhead consisting of a <u>surfaced</u> parking lot, an equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilet constructed near the northeastern boundary of the NCA. Construct a Quo Vadis Trailhead consisting of a 1/2-acre <u>surfaced</u> parking lot, with an interpretive kiosk and vault toilet (Figure 2.10).	Construct a Dutchman Pass Trailhead consisting of a hardened surfaced parking lot, an equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and bathrooms with water and power. Construct a Quo Vadis Trailhead consisting of a surfaced or paved parking lot large enough to accommodate vehicles pulling OHVs or horse trailers. The trailhead would have a gravel equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilet. Construct a Sutor Hills Trailhead consisting of a surfaced parking, with an interpretive kiosk and vault toilet.
Offsite NCA Information (L)	No similar action.	Provide NCA information at offsite locations throughout the City of Henderson (e.g., schools and libraries).	Provide NCA information at offsite locations throughout the City of Henderson (e.g., schools and libraries).	Provide NCA information at offsite locations throughout the City of Henderson, Las Vegas, and Boulder City (e.g., schools and libraries).

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	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
LANDS AND REALTY				
Consideration of New Linear and Site-Type ROWs (L)	Consider applications of new ROWs or any amendments to existing ROWs on a case-by-case basis within the NCA, under FLPMA, if the action furthers the purpose of the NCA in Section 602 of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act.	Consider applications of new ROWs or any amendments to existing ROWs on a case-by-case basis within the NCA, if the action furthers the purpose of the NCA in Section 602 of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act. Evaluation criteria could include, in part— Direct benefit to the NCA, such as utilities to serve NCA facilities. Maintaining or decreasing visual contrast. Reduction of disturbed area. Improvement in road/ROW alignment.	Consider applications of new ROWs or any amendments to existing ROWs on a case-by-case basis within the NCA (Figure 2.11), if the action furthers the purpose of the NCA in Section 602 of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act. Evaluation criteria could include, in part— Direct benefit to the NCA, such as utilities to serve NCA facilities or maintaining or decreasing visual contrast. Reduction of disturbed area. Improvement in road/ROW alignment.	Consider applications of new ROWs or any amendments to existing ROWs on a case-by-case basis within the NCA, if the action furthers the purpose of the NCA in Section 602 of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act. Evaluation criteria could include, in part— Direct benefit to the NCA, such as utilities to serve NCA facilities. Maintaining or decreasing visual contrast. Reduction of disturbed area. Improvement in road/ROW alignment.
Commercial Film Permit (I)	Authorize commercial film permits after adequate National Environmental Policy Act analysis.	Issue no commercial film permits within the NCA.	Issue no commercial film permits within the Wilderness. Limit film permits to designated trails and trailheads. Vehicles associated with the permit may not occupy more than 50% of the parking area capacity. Filming would be prohibited on weekends and	Issue no commercial film permits within the Wilderness. Limit film permits to designated trails and trailheads. Vehicles associated with the permit may not occupy more than 50% of the parking area capacity. Filming would be prohibited on weekends and

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			federal holidays. No new disturbance allowed. Maximum crew size per permit of 15 people for still and motion photography.	federal holidays. No new disturbance allowed. Maximum crew size per permit of 25 people for still photography and 50 people for motion photography.
TRANSPORTATION (Licensed Motorized Vehicles)				
Road Designations (L)	No roads or routes designated for public licensed vehicle use—all roads closed.	The North McCullough Road, when constructed, would be open for licensed vehicles. Close all other roads and routes to registered vehicle use.	Designate the North McCullough Road, Dutchman Pass Road, Quo Vadis Mine Road, and Rattlesnake Canyon Road Open for public use by registered vehicles. Close all other roads and routes to registered vehicle use (Figure 2.12).	Designate the North McCullough Road, Dutchman Pass Road, Quo Vadis Mine Road, Rattlesnake Canyon Road, East-West Power Line Road (Serial Number 33006), and Sutor Hills Road Open for public use by licensed vehicles. Close all other roads and routes to registered vehicle use.
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (including Special Status Species)				
Treatment Actions for Disturbed Areas (L)	Rehabilitated, reclaimed, or revegetated areas subjected to surface disturbing activities where feasible. When rehabilitating, manage for optimum species diversity by seeding with native species, as appropriate.	Managed vegetation on all applicable MEA zones to promote native plant communities and restore the plant productivity of disturbed areas. Restore disturbed areas in the Wilderness through natural processes.	Managed vegetation on all applicable MEA zones to promote native plant communities and restore the plant productivity of disturbed areas. Restore disturbed areas in the Wilderness after completion of minimum requirement/minimum tool	Managed vegetation on all applicable MEA zones to promote native plant communities and restore the plant productivity of disturbed areas. Restore disturbed areas in the Wilderness after completion of minimum requirement/ minimum tool analysis.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
		Landscape developed areas using only plant species native to the NCA.	analysis. Landscape developed areas using only plant species native to the NCA.	Landscape developed areas using only plant species native to the NCA.
Management of Activities that Impact Vegetation (I)	No similar action.	Improve or restore to natural conditions any surface disturbance that adversely affects native plant communities. Manage disturbance threshold before restoring natural condition or improving the condition of native plant communities by MEA zone.	Minimize impacts to native plant communities adversely affected by surface disturbance. Manage disturbance threshold before restoring natural condition or improving the condition of native plant communities by MEA zone (Figure 2.13).	Minimize impacts to native plant communities adversely affected by surface disturbance. Manage disturbance threshold before restoring natural condition or improving the condition of native plant communities by MEA zone, except MEA zones vary.
Priority for Restoration Projects (L)	No similar action.	Priority for restoring and improving conditions of native plant communities is Restoration Zone 3.	Priority for restoring and improving conditions of native plant communities is Restoration Zones 1 and 2.	Priority for restoring and improving conditions of native plant communities is Restoration Zone 1.
Collection of Vegetation (Seeds and/or Live Plants) (I)	Allow casual collection throughout the NCA, and commercial collection outside the Wilderness.	Prohibit casual and commercial collection throughout the NCA.	<u>Prohibit casual and commercial collection throughout the NCA.</u>	Allow casual collection outside the Wilderness to further the objectives of the NCA; allow commercial collection outside the Wilderness.
Special Status and Sensitive Species Management (L)	Manage Special Status Species for full regulatory compliance.	Maintain and protect Sensitive and Special Status Species habitats to ensure suitable conditions and population viability. Encourage scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.	Maintain and protect Sensitive and Special Status Species habitats to ensure suitable conditions and population viability. Encourage scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.	Maintain and protect Sensitive and Special Status Species habitats to ensure suitable conditions and population viability. Encourage scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.

*Underlining shows changes from Draft RMP/EIS Alternative C.

Note: (L) denotes land use planning decisions; (I) denotes implementing decisions.

Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
		Develop partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.	<u>Encourage</u> partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.	Develop partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.
Potential Threats to Sensitive or Special Status Species from Surface Disturbance (I)	Evaluate proposed disturbance areas for the presence of Special Status Plant Species.	Evaluate proposed disturbance areas for the presence of Special Status Plant Species, except avoid surface disturbing activities within Sensitive or Special Status and federally listed species habitat, if feasible.	Evaluate proposed disturbance areas for the presence of Special Status Plant Species, except avoid surface disturbing activities within known locations of federally listed plant species, if feasible.	Evaluate proposed disturbance areas for the presence of Special Status Plant Species, except avoid surface disturbing activities within known locations of federally listed plant species, if feasible.
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (including Special Status Species)				
Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management (I)	Manage in accordance with the current NDOW MOU and for full regulatory compliance.	Manage in accordance with the current NDOW MOU and for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— Visitors would be educated to be sensitive to bighorn sheep lambing areas from January to May.	Manage in accordance with the current NDOW MOU and for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— Visitors would be educated to be sensitive to bighorn sheep lambing areas from January to May. Limit designation and construction of trails, facilities, and ROWs within known lambing areas. Limit surface disturbing activities within known lambing areas from January	Manage in accordance with the current NDOW MOU and for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— No restrictions on visitor use or areas accessed.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
			through May. Avoid trail construction in areas of known bighorn sheep movement between the North and South McCullough Mountains.	
Reptile Habitat Management (I)	Allow casual collection of reptiles throughout the NCA, but commercial collection allowed only outside the Wilderness.	Prohibit casual and commercial collection of reptiles throughout the NCA.	<u>Prohibit casual and commercial collection of reptiles throughout the NCA.</u>	Allow casual collection of reptiles throughout the NCA, outside the Wilderness, except— Prohibit any surface disturbing activity related to casual or commercial collection. Allow commercial collection outside the Wilderness.
Raptor Management (I)	Manage potential nesting areas for full regulatory compliance.	Manage potential nesting areas for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— Visitors would be educated to be sensitive to raptor nesting areas in April and May.	Manage potential nesting areas for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— Visitors would be educated to be sensitive to raptor nesting areas <u>during nesting season</u> . Avoid designation and construction of trails, facilities, or ROWs within known nesting areas. Construction of trails, facilities, or ROWs would be seasonally restricted within a radius of occupied raptor nesting sites.	Manage potential nesting areas for full regulatory compliance, and in addition— No restrictions on visitor use or areas accessed.

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
			Distance and seasonal restriction could be determined on a case-by-case basis and would depend on the species involved, natural topographic barriers, and line-of-sight distances.	
Scientific Research (I)	Issue wildlife specimen collection permits on a case-by-case basis.	Do not issue wildlife specimen collection permits. Allow wildlife observation studies as long as the study does not harass species. Implement surveys for appropriate species.	Issue wildlife specimen collection permits for scientific purposes on a case-by-case basis. Require all applicants who intend to collect specimens of listed species to obtain permits from NDOW and USFWS. Allow wildlife observation studies as long as the study does not harass species. Implement surveys for appropriate species.	Issue wildlife specimen collection permits for scientific purposes on a case-by-case basis. Require all applicants who intend to collect specimens of listed species to obtain permits from NDOW and USFWS. Allow wildlife observation studies as long as the study does not harass species. Implement surveys for appropriate species.
Area/Trail Closures (L)	No similar action.	Permanently close trails or areas or restrict activities when closures would protect wildlife species.	Close trails using seasonal or small area closures on a case-by-case basis when closures would protect wildlife species during critical life periods.	Close trails only in response to critical threats to wildlife. Employ seasonal and site closures as the primary closure techniques.
Introduced Species, including Dogs and Cats (I)	No similar action.	Remove feral animals from the NCA by coordinating with appropriate local, State, and federal agencies on animal trapping and transfer of	Remove feral animals from the NCA by coordinating with appropriate local, State, and federal agencies on animal trapping and transfer of	Remove feral animals from the NCA by coordinating with appropriate local, State, and federal agencies on animal trapping and transfer of

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>populations posing a threat to wildlife health or human health and safety.</p> <p>Prohibit bird feeders in the NCA and educate visitors about the impacts of bird feeders on the wildlife.</p>	<p>populations posing a threat to wildlife health or human health and safety.</p> <p>Prohibit bird feeders within the NCA.</p>	<p>populations posing a threat to wildlife health or human health and safety.</p> <p>Prohibit bird feeders within the NCA.</p>
Special Status Species Management (L)	Manage Special Status Species for full regulatory compliance and consistent with the applicable USFWS Biological Opinion.	<p>Maintain and protect Special Status Species habitat to ensure suitable habitat conditions and viable populations.</p> <p>Emphasize scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p> <p>Encourage partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p>	<p>Maintain and protect Special Status Species habitat to ensure suitable habitat conditions and viable populations.</p> <p><u>Encourage</u> scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p> <p>Encourage partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p>	<p>Maintain and protect Special Status Species habitat to ensure suitable habitat conditions and viable populations.</p> <p>Emphasize scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p> <p>Encourage partnerships with universities and other educational groups to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.</p>
Potential Threats to Special Status Species from Recreation (I)	No similar action.	<p>Avoid disturbance or development in areas of Special Status Species potential habitat.</p> <p>Develop and distribute interpretive information that emphasizes the potential effects of recreation use on wildlife.</p>	<p>Mitigate disturbance or development in areas of Special Status Species habitat discovered by conducting site-specific surveys.</p> <p>Develop and distribute interpretive information that emphasizes the potential effects of recreation use on wildlife.</p>	<p>Mitigate disturbance or development in areas of Special Status Species habitat discovered by conducting site-specific surveys.</p> <p>Develop and distribute interpretive information that emphasizes the potential effects of recreation use on wildlife.</p>

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Table ES-1. Summary of the Management Direction

	NO ACTION	ALTERNATIVE B	PROPOSED PLAN*	ALTERNATIVE D
LIVESTOCK GRAZING				
Placement of Mineral and Salt Supplements (L)	Locate salt and mineral supplements a minimum of 1 mile from water.	Prohibit salt and mineral supplement placement within the NCA.	Prohibit salt and mineral supplement placement within the NCA.	Prohibit salt and mineral supplement placement within the NCA.
Range Improvements for Livestock Grazing Purposes (L)	Develop new range improvements, as needed, and if consistent with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, to reach a uniform distribution of livestock consistent with management objectives. Authorize no new range improvements for livestock grazing purposes within the Wilderness.	Authorize no new range improvements for livestock grazing purposes within the NCA.	Authorize no new range improvements for livestock grazing purposes within the NCA.	Authorize no new range improvements for livestock grazing purposes within the NCA.
GEOLOGY AND SOILS				
Management of Geologic Research (I)	Manage for full regulatory compliance.	Allow nonintrusive geologic research throughout the NCA, and manage for full regulatory compliance.	Allow intrusive geologic research throughout the NCA by permit and <u>apply appropriate restrictions in the Wilderness.</u> Prohibit intrusive geologic research in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access.	Allow intrusive geologic research throughout the NCA by permit and manage for full regulatory compliance. Prohibit intrusive geologic research in the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and its northern access. Apply appropriate restrictions in the remainder of the Wilderness.

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